



Kelvale News

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Winter 2021

Hello and we hope that this newsletter finds you well. Quite a lot has happened since last year's sale. It was a tough one for the whole family with the passing of David, Dad, Pop. We would like to thank everyone for their well wishes and support through this time.

The 2020 season ended well with good spring rains giving us spot on average rainfall for the year. However the summer was quite dry and unseasonably cool which didn't help the irrigated Lucerne seed production. But the early crops yielded well and prices are very good.

With a few reasonable seasons in recent years, surplus sheep prices are really good, wool kicking along nicely and Lucerne seed ok, farming at Emu Flat is good. With a bit of confidence in what we are doing we have been lucky enough to secure another 200Ha of land along side our current properties. Once we establish quality pastures on this country we will be able to increase our sheep numbers and the location is perfect to adjoin Emu Flat and Lucerne Valley.

In September 2020 we welcomed Aaron Woods and his family to Kelvale as a fulltime employee. Aaron has fitted in really well to our business and we are sure that you will all get to know him in time.

The 2021 season has begun slowly with a late start and no real soaking rains so far. With the sandy soils here in Keith we need some long steady rainfall for moisture to work its way down.

The livestock are in good condition with ewes raising lambs well and the rams are looking great and are very well grown. In order for data to be collated for a catalogue, the lotting of the rams need to take place quite a few weeks prior to the sale. It's amazing how much the rams can change in the last couple of weeks.

In the lead up to the Ram Sale we will be displaying a group of rams at the Eyre Peninsula Field Days in Wudinna (SA) and at the South East Field Days in Keith both during July. Please come and say hello if you have the opportunity.



www.kelvalepollmerinos.com.au
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Lambing results

Through the education courses in Life Time Ewe Management we are always looking at improving ourselves by implementing information learnt. This year we made better use of the electronic tag technology by splitting ewes into much smaller mobs for lambing, especially the twinning ewes.

The ewes had a good condition score going into mating, on a rising plain of about 3 to 3.5 score. We had a seven week mating for syndicate mobs with the stud single mates having four weeks, then a backup of three weeks.

Scanning results were excellent. Of the 1471 ewes mated and scanned, 104 were dry, 533 single and 834 were pregnant with multiples.

Having so many foetuses due to drop on the 1st of May the pressure was on to get our management right. We kept the stud ewes as one mob until lambing when they were split into their sire mobs. Splitting these ewes into single and multiple for lambing makes it very difficult to identify sires without the use of DNA testing, which at \$34 per test is still very costly. In saying that we have completed 100 tests this year on some sale rams which will give us better ASBV data.

Back to lambing, between scanning and their due date, the syndicate mated mob was split into two mobs of 305 singles and 468 multiples. The ewes pregnant with multiple foetuses were rotated around better quality feed and the singles got the lesser paddocks. A week before the due date all the ewes were split into smaller mobs again, multiples of about 80-85 ewes and singles into one mob of 130 in a large paddock and two mobs of about 90.

We normally have a good amount of feed going into lambing, however this year we have only had one significant rain in February and a total of 83mm of rain since mating in December (about 60% of average).

So with small mob sizes and small paddocks of about 10ha all mobs of multiple lambing ewes were shifted onto a fresh paddock every week. This is not ideal, however the ewes are used to being shifted regularly so opening a gate and letting them shift themselves then following up the next day works. Supplement feeding of 1.5 bales of Lucerne Hay was provided to each mob weekly.

So the results—The syndicate mated ewes with multiple foetuses, just prior to tailing were mobbed up. Mob one had 225 wet ewes, 7 dries with 399 lambs, 172% survival. Mob two had 218 wet ewes, 9 dries with 372 lambs, 164% survival. The singles ended up in one mob for tailing with 277 wet ewes, 23 dries and 277 lambs, 92% survival.

The stud ewes always get the best feed and mostly lamb onto irrigated Lucerne paddocks. These lambs are mothered up at about 10 days of age, they are then put together into mobs of about 200 ewes. Mob one had 208 ewes with 307 lambs, mob two 192 ewes with 275 lambs and mob three 140 ewes with 223 lambs which were mostly back-ups.

The syndicate mobs of 820 ewes mated had 1048 lambs (128%), the 651 single mated stud ewes had 805 lambs (123.5%). We are really pleased gaining an overall lambing result of 126% from 1471 ewes mated.

So what did we learn? We need to feed our ewes with single foetuses a bit better as only 92% survival is below par. Shifting ewes weekly was not ideal, however we were up against it this year with the season. Ideally we would only shift ewes and lambs every two or three weeks to prevent mis-mothering.

It does show that smaller mobs work better and the effort put into managing lambing is well worth it. Management plus genetics plus a season (even though not great) equals good results.



Ram Sale

Firstly we would like to thank and congratulate all purchasers and underbidders at the 2020 Ram Sale. If you have had any problems with the rams please don't hesitate to get in contact.

The rams are coming along really well. They are as big as we have ever had, however they are not over fat just fit and ready to go.

We had no outside influence in the 2020 drop at Kelvale. We were looking to stabilise our gains and make use of our own genetics.

Due to the outstanding breeding success of Kelvale 170004, we used him quite extensively to breed this drop of rams. We completed an AI program along with natural mating with him and he performed well. His progeny are setting the bar on staple length with great muscle and growth.

Another sire to look out for is Kelvale 181298, he has produced a fabulous lustrous white wool on well structured sheep.

With the impact of COVID-19 still reeking havoc and border shutdowns changing regularly, we will have Auctions plus in play again this year at the Ram Sale.

Please contact us before the sale to let us know if you need assistance with selections.

From this year, we will now be fully vaccinated for OJD with all ewes, rams and progeny injected for biosecurity.

We continue to offer our services for ewe classing at any time of the year. And we also welcome inspections of the rams before the ram sale if necessary.

Looking forward to seeing you all on Sale Day August 19 at Keith.

Kelvale Sale Team

The data on the sale team will be available on the website a couple of weeks prior to the sale.

www.kelvalepollmerinos.com.au



Kelvale On Property Auction

At Emu Flat

675 Emu Flat Road, KEITH

Thursday August 19 at 1pm

Inspection from 10am

**160 Specially selected Rams
plus a mini auction**

Light luncheon provided.

Social Media

In recent years we have been using Facebook to inform followers of the goings on at Kelvale, sometimes not so well! We have now embarked on Twitter and Instagram to support Facebook to interact with more people on a regular basis, and we now need to get better at a regular 'tweet' or 'post'. If you use any of the social media platforms mentioned please check out our pages and like and follow us.

If you have surplus sheep for sale or stories of interest don't hesitate to let us know and we can use these platforms to inform our followers.



Kelvale Clients

Well done to Anthony and David Lowe and families for their win in the Mundulla Prime Lamb Competition. In March the Lowe family became the first entrant in the 13 year history of the competition to win with a pure merino pen of lambs.

Up against 19 other entrants, including several crossbred entries, their pen of 10 wether lambs at eight months of age weighed 53.7kg curfewed live weight. With 37.7mm Eye Muscle depth and 5.5mm of fat the pen was placed third on the hoof. However, it was on-hook where they excelled. Processed through JBS at Bordertown with a dual energy x-ray absorptiometry (DEXA) machine they came out on top with a score of 408.8 from a possible 470.

The Lowe family have been purchasing Kelvale Rams for about five years and its great to see fantastic results with their genetics and the hard work they are putting in.

Lowes hit high for lamb title

Grain feeding gives growth advantage

A pen of Merinos has upstaged the crossbred entries as the winners of the Mundulla prime lamb competition.

BY CATHERINE MILLER

The Lowes ran a Kelvale-blood Merino flock and this year have mated 3400 ewes and ewe lambs for a July lambing.

About half of these ewes are mated to Merinos and the remainder to White Suffolks from Days Whitefaced stud and Suffolks from Allendale stud.

Anthony says the most notable difference in the management of their 2020-drop Merino lambs was giving them ad-lib access to grain in Advantage Feeders from birth right through their lives.

This is a practice they have undertaken for several years with their crossbred lambs with the goal to rear them off at a younger age.

The ration, which was they trail fed some beans in the paddock, which got the lambs accustomed to bean stubbles, which they ran on from December last year until sale.

The lambs were shorn in late November, delivering \$8/head in profit after shearing costs.

Anthony estimates the first draft that was sold in mid-January consumed

own 20 and the day before the show I drafted them off and tried to pick out an even group," Anthony said.

The others in the draft made \$202 on-hooks at JBS. They averaged 23.3kgcwt.

It is not just feeding that is the focus of the Lowes' sheep operation, with equal importance placed on genetics.

They have been buying rams from Stephen and Peta

wool cut but we have better lambing percentages, plainer bodies and we get two shearings a year."

David says the competition win reaffirms their decision to select rams with a balance of positive fat and high eye muscle figures, as well as good wool traits.

"I was happy enough to come third on-hook but when I found out we had

three breeding cycles.

"Along with quality wool and a reasonable wool cut, we see the profit drivers as high lambing percentages and being able to get good weight gains to sell stock off easier," Anthony said.

Elders southern livestock manager Laryn Goggin judged the on-hook section of the Mundulla Prime Lamb Competition with Trevor James, Cuckooing stud, Mundulla.

OVERALL WIN: Anthony and David Lowe, Mundulla, with competition organisers Tim Wiese and Francis Andrews.

Kelvale Poll Merinos

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